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ANALYSES OF WILLINGNESS TO PRACTICE AGRICULTURE AS ENTERPRISE AMONG STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN IBADAN, OYO STATE

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Abstract
This study investigated willingness to practice agriculture as enterprise among students of tertiary institutions in Oyo State. A Multi-stage sampling technique was used to elicit data from 112 selected respondents in the study area. Data were collected using a well structured questionnaire and analyzed with the use of descriptive (frequency counts, percentages, and mean) and inferential statistic (Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation). The results showed that majority of the respondents were within the age range of 21-25 years, with majority males, whom were single in the study area. Furthermore, results revealed that majority of the respondents had low interest in agricultural enterprise preference and high constraint associated with respondents willingness to engage in agricultural enterprise in the study area. Majority of the respondents had positive willingness to practice agricultural enterprise in the study area. There was significant relationship between selected socio-economic characteristics of the respondents except Gender and Marital status. It is therefore recommended that government should motivate agricultural students by providing Youth Empowerment programmes and services directed to improve their willingness to engage in agricultural enterprises.

Keywords: Constraints, willingness, Agriculture enterprise, students

Introduction

Agriculture is the engine of growth for most developing countries and agricultural development is one of the most effective ways to alleviate hunger and poverty (Amungwa and Baye, 2014). The sector accounted for 41.8% of the overall economy in 2006, followed by the non- oil industry (26.1%), while crude oil only accounted for 21.9% of GDP (CBN, 2006). It is a general believe that agriculture is growing at a slower rate than the population of the nation, yet it remains dominant in Nigeria's economic growth as it will continue to contribute to the major part of the Gross Domestic Profit (GDP) for many years to come (World Bank, 2004). The youth population in Nigeria currently is almost 14m. This implies that they constitute more than two-third of the country's population of 140 million. If Nigeria youth policy definition of all young persons of ages 18 to 35 years is used as benchmark, it implies that correct diagnosis that will bring about right motivation that will ensure aggressive and efficient involvement of youth in agricultural production will be a solution to food security in Nigeria, being the backbone of the development of the country. The youths need to be involved in agriculture to ensure a successive farming generation. But unfortunately, the case is different. Leavy and Smith (2010), reported that many young people do not choose to pursue livelihoods in the agricultural sector, especially as farmers. More than 40% of the youth population quoted is within the age group of students in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Edozien (2002) noted that Nigeria's future lies in the participation of students and youths in farming. Consequently, the government has attempted to stimulate youth's interest in agricultural production and processing through targeted intervention of Youth Empowerment Programmes. It is necessary to educate the younger generation to be conversant with farming to encourage them to contribute to food production. This can be done by understanding their perception towards farming not only as a food production venture, but as a means of sustainable livelihood. The factors that affect the decision for livelihood include; family, passion, salary, and past experiences. In addition to these factors, race and sex can also affect what field a student may

choose. Some professions have greater percentages of a certain sex or race. Another view that plays a big role in a student's decision of what field to study is the people or role models in his or her life. These role models can include a parent, teacher, or a recent employer (Fizer, 2013). The passion of an individual towards a particular livelihood has a lot to do with the choice of the individual. Some youths today have limited knowledge about farming, many believing that milk comes merely from the grocery store rather than understanding that it comes from a cow (Boleman and Burrell, 2003). The decline in the number of students entering the field of agriculture has been on the rise over the years (Scott and Lavergne, 2004). This is largely because most people still regard agriculture as non-professional and less profitable livelihood option for a young graduate and anyone returning to farming after University would be regarded as a failure (Okiror and Otabong, 2015). Agriculture has been faced with declining enrolments at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. The job market for agriculture has expanded into a wide range of fields. According to Okorie (2001) cited in Hillary and Akor (2019), career opportunities in agriculture include; crop production, crop protection, crop processing, animal production, drug production, farm produce distribution, teaching, research, extension services, soil management and analysis, banking and finance, input supply, and a lot of jobs available in agro allied industries. There are numerous careers in agriculture for youths to choose from but choosing a career is often influenced by certain factors. The broad objective of this study was therefore to investigate Willingness to Practice Agriculture as Enterprise among Students of Tertiary Institutions in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Methodology

The study was carried out in selected institutions in Ibadan, Oyo State. It's also home to Africa's leading fountain of knowledge: University of Ibadan; Oyo State College of Education; The Polytechnic, Ibadan; Ladoke Akintola University of Technology; Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan; Federal College of Animal Health and Production Technology, Ibadan and Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan. A multi-stage sampling technique was used for this study. First stage was purposive sampling of tertiary institutions offering Agriculture and related studies, such as; University of Ibadan, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan, and Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan. Second stage was the purposive selection of departments with agricultural courses from each tertiary institutions offering agriculture and related studies which were, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, University of Ibadan; Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan and Department of Agricultural Technology, Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan. Third stage was the random selection of 20% agricultural students (respondents) in each selected tertiary institution i.e 20% of 300 students from the Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, University of Ibadan; 20% of 60 students from the Department of Agricultural Extension and Management, Federal College of Forestry, Ibadan and 20% of 200 students from the Department of Agricultural Technology, Federal College of Agriculture, Ibadan to give a total of 112 respondents used as sample size for the study. Data were obtained from primary sources. Data were analyzed with the use of descriptive statistics such as; frequency counts, percentages, and means and inferential statistic such as Chi-square and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) employed to determine relationship between socio-economic characteristics, Constraints and willingness to practice Agriculture as enterprise in the study area.

Results and Discussion

Socio- economic characteristic of the respondents

The result of analysis from Table 1 showed that the majority (63.4%) of the respondents were within the age range of 21-25 years. This is in line with Akinbile (2007) and Adedeji *et al.* (2013) who reported that respondents within this age range constitute the active workforce of the population. Thus, the respondents could be categorized as adults, at this age; they should have stopped thinking of themselves as children and start thinking more about the future. Also parents at this age expect matured behavior from the children. Consequently, it was expected from the students to be able to make decisions about potential careers to pursue.

Table 1: Socio- economic characteristic of the respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage	Mean
Age			
16-20	11	9.8	23.6
21-25	71	63.4	
26-30	30	26.8	
Gender			
Male	58	51.8	
Female	54	48.2	
Marital Status			
Single	108	96.4	
Married	4	3.6	
Ethnicity			
Yoruba	66	58.9	
Hausa	1	0.9	
Igbo	34	30.4	
Others	11	9.8	
Father's occupation			
Farming	9	8.0	
Civil servant	42	37.5	
Law	11	9.8	
Medical practitioner	25	22.3	
Engineering	16	14.3	
Others	9	8.0	
Mother's Occupation			
Farming	1	0.9	
Civil servant	51	45.5	
Teaching	27	24.1	
Trading	31	27.7	
Others	2	1.8	
place of residence from birth			
Urban	91	81.3	
Rural	21	18.8	
farming experience before getting admitted			
No	73	65.2	
Yes	39	34.8	
present course of study			
Agric Extension	54	48.2	
Agronomy	21	18.8	
Agric Economics	9	8.0	
Animal Science	18	16.1	
Crop Protection	8	7.1	
Horticulture	2	1.8	
Level of study			
HND2	52	46.4	
500 level	60	53.6	
Name of institution			
UI	60	53.6	
FCF	12	10.7	
FCA	40	35.7	
Total	112	100.0	

Field survey, 2020

Also, result shows that many respondents were males (51.8%) and 48.2% females. It could be deduced from the result that there are more males studying agriculture than females, with most of them single (96.4%) and 3.4% married. Results also reveal that the respondents cut across the major ethnic groups within the country; 0.9% Hausa, 30.4% Igbo, and 58.9% were Yoruba, which constitute the largest percentage. Other respondents who fall outside these major ethnic groups in Nigeria constitute 9.8%. Furthermore, majority of respondents (81.3%) reside in the urban area. This might give the students the privilege of understanding professional careers along with their roles and economic opportunities. Also, result showed that majority of the

respondents (73%) had no farming experience before admission. With this, it could be said that most respondents were not from farming families and are not really expected to develop interest in agricultural profession. This is in tandem with the findings of Jeffrey *et al*. (2004) cited by Ayanda *et al.* (2012) who noted that parents and guardians play a significant role in the occupational aspirations of their children. Results reveal that 54% of the respondents study Agricultural Extension, Agronomy (21%), Animal Science (18%), Agricultural Economics (9%), Crop protection (8%) and lastly 2% study Horticulture.

Agricultural enterprise preference

Agricultural enterprise preference of the respondents is presented in Table 2a.

Table 2a: Respondents' agricultural enterprise preference

Agricultural enterprises	Most preferred	Preferred	Not interested
Fishery and aquaculture production	34 (30.4)	57 (50.9)	21 (18.8)
Crop production	42(37.5)	51(45.5)	19 (17.0)
Livestock production	60 (53.6)	41 (36.6)	11 (9.8)
Plant and animal geneticist	29 (25.9)	71 (63.4)	12 (10.7)
Soil scientist/pedologist	42 (37.5)	40 (35.7)	30 (26.8)
Horticulture/olericulture	7 (6.3)	41 (36.6)	64 (57.1)
Agricultural education (Trainer/Teacher/Lecturer)	65 (58.0)	37 (33.0)	10 (8.9)
Veterinary	29 (25.9)	23 (20.5)	60 (53.6)
Feed Production, Sales and Management	42 (37.5)	21 (18.8)	49 (43.8)
Sales and supply of farm outputs	45 (40.1)	48 (42.9)	19 (17.0)
Farm input supply and sales	32 (28.6)	34 (30.4)	46 (41.1)
Construction and fabrication of farm machineries and structures	29 (25.9)	22 (19.6)	61 (54.5)
Agri-processing	46 (41.1)	43 (38.4)	23 (20.5)
Extension agent	30 (26.8)	53 (47.3)	29 (25.9)
Other jobs not related to agriculture	26 (23.2)	75 (67.0)	11 (9.8)

Field survey, 2020

Table 2b: Categorization of respondents based on their agricultural enterprise preference

	Frequency	Percentage	Min	Max	Mean=15.8
High(Above mean)	51	45.5	1	24	
Low(Below mean)	61	54.5			
Total	112	100			

Field survey, 2020

Result of analysis in Table 2a revealed that majority of the respondents (53.6%) most preferred livestock production, (58.0%) most preferred agricultural education (Trainer/Teacher/Lecturer) and also majority (50.9%) preferred fishery and aquaculture production, 63.4% preferred plant and animal geneticist and 67.0% preferred other jobs not related to agriculture. Majority (57.1%) were not interested in horticulture/olericulture, 53.6% not interested in Veterinary, and also 54.5% not interested in Construction and fabrication of farm machineries and structures in the study area. Result of analysis in Table 2b revealed that (54.5%) of the respondents had low preference for agricultural enterprise, while 45.5% had high preference in the study area.

Constraints militating against students' willingness to practice agricultural enterprise

Result of analyses in Table 3a revealed that majority of the respondents (86.6%) indicated insufficient capital, climate change (50.0%), inadequate credit facilities (60.7%), and inadequate transport and storage facilities (62.5%) as constraints militating against respondents' attitude toward establishing agricultural enterprises. Others are land tenure (59.8%), poor societal value of farmers/ psychology of being called a farmer (51.8%), tedious nature of agriculture (67.0%), poor remuneration in agricultural related jobs (54.5%), fear of crop/livestock failure (60.7%), insufficient skills (51.8%), lack of employment in the sector (59.8%), lack of access to tractors and other farm inputs (50.9%) and seasonality of agricultural produce and market access (58.9%) as minor constraints.

Table 3a: Constraints associated to students' willingness to practice agricultural enterprise

Statements	Major constraint	Minor constraint	Not a constraint
Insufficient capital	97(86.6%)	9(8.0%)	6(5.4%)
Land Tenure problem	37(33.0%)	67(59.8%)	8(7.1%)
Climatic change	56(50.0%)	50(44.6%)	6(5.4%)
Poor societal value of farmers/ the psychology of being called a farmer	22(19.6%)	58(51.8%)	32(28.6%)
Tedious nature of agriculture	27(24.1%)	75(67.0%)	10(8.9%)
Poor remuneration in agricultural related jobs	24(21.4%)	61(54.5%)	27(24.1%)
Fear of crop/livestock failure	30(26.8%)	68(60.7%)	14(12.5%)
Insufficient skills	18(16.1%)	58(51.8%)	36(32.1%)
Inadequate credit facilities	69(60.7%)	35(31.3%)	9(8.0%)
Lack of employment in the sector	26(23.2%)	67(59.8%)	19(17.0%)
Lack of access to tractors and other farm inputs	47(42.0%)	57(50.9%)	8(7.1%)
Inadequate transport and storage facilities	70(62.5%)	34(30.4%)	8(7.1%)
Seasonality of agricultural produce and market access	35(31.3)	66(58.9)	11(9.8)

Field survey, 2020

Table 3b: Categorization of respondents based on Constraints militating against students' willingness to practice agricultural enterprise

	Frequency	Percentage	Min	Max	Mean=16.2
High(Above mean)	62	55.4	8	26	
Low(Below mean)	50	44.6			
Total	112	100			

Field survey, 2020

Result of analysis in Table 3b revealed that 55.4% of the respondents had high level of Constraint militating against students' attitude towards establishing an agricultural enterprise, while 44.6% had low level of constraint.

Willingness of respondents to practice agricultural enterprise

Result of analysis in Table 4a revealed that majority of the respondents (71.4%) indicated "I will establish an agric enterprise on my own", "awareness creation and support will stimulate my interest to establish" (61.8%), "If I have access to funds or loan, I will venture into agriculture" (78.6%), "I chose agriculture because I have interest as a career" (70.5%) as very true statements that can enhance willingness of respondents to establish agricultural enterprises in the study area. And also "I prefer to work in any agric enterprise already in place" (59.8%) as true statement that can enhance willingness of respondents to establish agricultural enterprise in the study area. Result of analysis in Table 4b revealed that 64.3% of the respondents had positive willingness to establish agricultural enterprise, while 33.7% were not willing. The implication is that majority of the respondents are willing to establish agricultural enterprise in the study area. This is in tandem with Olayemi *et al*. (2019) who reported that the respondents had positive attitude to utilize improved processing technologies.

Table 4a: Willingness of respondents to practice agricultural enterprise

Statement	Very willing	Willing	Not willing
I will establish an agric enterprise on my own	80(71.4%)	26(23.2%)	6(5.4%)
I prefer to work in any agric enterprise already in place	36(32.1%)	67(59.8%)	9(8.0%)
I will establish an agric enterprise for the benefit of the community	50(44.7%)	40(35.7%)	22(19.6%)
Awareness creation and support will stimulate my interest to establish	69(61.6%)	37(33.0%)	6(5.4%)
If I have access to funds or loan, I will venture into agriculture	88(78.6%)	18(16.1%)	6(5.4%)
I chose agriculture because I have interest as a career	79(70.5%)	16(14.3%)	17(15.2%)
My parents lured me so I don't have any interest in pursuing a career related to agriculture	10(8.9%)	9(8.0%)	93(83.0)

Field survey, 2020

Table 4b: Categorization of respondents based on their willingness to practice agricultural enterprise

	Frequency	Percentage	Min	Max	Mean=11.0
Positive (Above mean)	72	64.3	1	28	
Negative (Below mean)	40	35.7			
Total	112	100			

Field survey, 2020

Chi-square analysis shows evidence of significant relationship between selected socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and willingness to practice agricultural enterprise among respondents expect gender and marital status that were not significant in the study area. This implies that selected demographic characteristics have influence on willingness to practice agricultural enterprise as future career expect gender and marital status.

Table 5:Chi-square analysis showing the association between socio-economic characteristics of respondents and willingness to practice agricultural enterprise among respondents

Variable	Chi-square	Df	p-value	Decision
Age	17.909	6	0.001	S
Gender	2.886	3	0.236	NS
Marital status	3.992	3	0.136	NS
Ethnicity	37.830	9	0.000	S
Father's Occupation	50.716	15	0.000	S
Mother's Occupation	49.050	15	0.000	S
Place of residence from birth	13.056	3	0.001	S
Farming experience before admited	10.511	3	0.005	S
Present source of study	25.012	15	0.005	S
Level of study	6.584	3	0.086	S

Computed analysis, 2020

Table 6: PPMC analysis showing the relationship between constraints associated with practice in agricultural enterprise and willingness toward agricultural enterprise

	r-value	p-value	Decision
Constraint and Willingness	0.402**	0.000	S

Computed analysis, 2020

Pearson Product Moment Correlation in Table 6 revealed evidence of significant relationship between constraints militating against practice in agricultural enterprise (mean score of constraints) and willingness to practice agricultural enterprise in the study area (mean score of willingness). This implies that the constraints associated with practice of agricultural enterprise have relationship on their willingness towards agricultural enterprise as a future career.

Conclusion

Results revealed that majority of the respondents had low agricultural enterprise preference and had high constraints associated with willingness to practice agricultural enterprise in the study area. It also revealed that majority of the respondents had positive willingness to practice agricultural enterprise. There is significant relationship between demographic characteristics of the respondents and willingness to practice agricultural enterprise in the study area. Also significant relationship between constraints associated with willingness to practice agricultural enterprise and willingness to practice agricultural enterprise in the study area. The results therefore call for policies aimed at need to motivate Agricultural Students by providing programmes and services directed to improve their willingness to practice agricultural enterprise. Government and Non-Governmental Organizations should render special assistance to students studying agriculture upon graduation in the form of granting of loans or scholarship to the students to enhance their willingness to practice Agriculture in future.

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